

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 22 have been amended by this response.

No new subject matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 2, 15-21 and 24 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3-14, 22 and 23 are currently pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated “Claims 2-6 and 22-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 2. Claim 2 has therefore been cancelled. Claims 3-14 are dependent on amended claim 1, and thus are also allowable. Claim 22 has been amended into independent form. Claim 23 is dependent from amended now independent claim 22.

Applicant submits that this amendment fully addresses this objection.

Claims Rejection – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 7-21, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. patent application publication No. US 2003/0181874 A1 to Bressler et al. (“Bressler”).

Of the claims rejected, claims 15-21 and 24 have been cancelled, claims 1 and 22 are independent, with the remaining claims dependent thereon.

Applicant submits that this rejection is rendered moot in view of the present amendment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, applicants submit the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and allowable in form.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1666.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments relating to the present application, he or she is respectfully invited to contact applicants' agent at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mark Lindsey/

Mark Lindsey
Registration No. 52,515
Agent for Applicant(s)
201 847 6262

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Becton, Dickinson and Company
1 Becton Drive, MC110
Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417-1880

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